

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended). A method for providing maintenance operations for a switch within a switching center of a telecommunications service provider, while securing lawful intercept related data collected by the switch and stored in a database ~~associated with~~ of the switch, comprising the steps of:

encrypting a portion of the database including the intercept related data and
storing the portion of the database that is encrypted in the database; and

sending the data base including the portion of the database that is encrypted to
a vendor located outside the telecommunications service provider; and

upgrading a portion of the database including upgradeable control data for controlling the switch, which is within the switching center of the telecommunications service provider, by ~~another entity outside the telecommunications service provider while preventing the entity outside the telecommunications service provider~~ the vendor while preventing the vendor from decrypting the portion of the database including the intercept related data without authorization from the telecommunications service provider.

Claim 2 (previously presented). The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of creating a logical key at the telecommunications company that allows the portion of the database including the intercept related data to be decrypted.

Claim 3 (previously presented). The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of inserting the logical key into the portion of the database including the intercept related data to be encrypted.

Claim 4 (previously presented). The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of creating the key creates a software key that is used for the encryption of the portion of the database including the intercept related data.

Claim 5 (previously presented). The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of blocking access to display commands that cause the portion of the database including the intercept related data to be displayed by the switch.

Claim 6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (currently amended). The method according to ~~claim 6~~ claim 1, further comprising the step of upgrading by the vendor without ~~the need to decrypt or otherwise provide~~ providing access to the sensitive intercept related data.

Claim 8 (previously presented). The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of storing programming code for controlling the switch in the portion of the database including the intercept related data.

Claim 9 (original). The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of providing protection for the intercept related data in accordance with a lawful intercept legislation.

Claim 10 (original). The method according to claim 9, wherein the lawful intercept legislation is CALEA.

Claim 11 (currently amended). An apparatus for providing maintenance operations for a switch within a switching center of a telecommunications service provider, while securing intercept related data collected by the telecommunications service provider, comprising:

a database for storing an encrypted version of the intercept related data and for storing upgradeable control data for controlling the switch within the switching center of the telecommunications service provider; and

a logical key at the telecommunications company that allows a portion of the database including the intercept related data to be decrypted;

the control data being upgradeable by a vendor without allowing the vendor to access the intercept related data.

Claim 12 (original). The apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising a switch at the telecommunications service provider.

Claim 13 (previously presented). The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the logical key is a software key that used for the encryption of the portion of the database including the intercept related data.

Claim 14 (original). The apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising a vendor switch.

Claim 15 (previously presented). The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the vendor switch is programmed to prevent display of commands that cause the portion of the database including the intercept related data to be displayed.

Claim 16 (cancelled).